

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-21. (Canceled)

22. (New) A steering device for a sports article having a plurality of supporting and sliding or rolling elements provided in an in-line arrangement adapted to slide or roll on a supporting surface, said steering device comprising:

a chassis having a longitudinal axis;

a least one carriage having two of said supporting and sliding or rolling elements provided in an in-line arrangement, said carriage being provided at an end portion of said chassis such that said carriage is able to swing relative to said chassis about a swinging axis that is inclined relative to the supporting surface, said swinging axis lying substantially on a median longitudinal plane of said chassis; and

elastic structure provided such that said carriage will swing relative to said chassis about said swinging axis against force of said elastic structure;

wherein said two of said supporting and sliding or rolling elements have respective support axes that are substantially parallel to a plane that includes said longitudinal axis of said chassis and that is perpendicular to the medial longitudinal plane of said chassis; and

wherein said carriage has a swinging center with respect to said chassis, and said support axes of said two of said supporting and sliding or rolling elements are on opposite sides of said swinging center with respect to said longitudinal axis of said chassis.

23. (New) The steering device of claim 22, wherein said chassis comprises a support member at said end portion of said chassis having a surface that is inclined at an angle that is complementary to an angle of said swinging axis.

24. (New) The steering device of claim 23, wherein said carriage has an arm connected to said support member, said arm having a surface that faces and is complementary to said surface of said support member.

25. (New) The steering device of claim 24, wherein said carriage comprises a first fork and a second fork extending from opposite sides of said arm, said first fork and said second fork supporting a respective one of said two of said supporting and sliding or rolling elements in correspondence with said support axes.

26. (New) The steering device of claim 22, wherein said elastic structure interacts with said arm to elastically oppose swinging movement of said carriage.

27. (New) The steering device of claim 26, wherein said elastic structure comprises two structures housed within respective housings in said support member, said arm having respective projections extending therefrom and interacting with said structures.

28. (New) The steering device of claim 22, wherein said swinging axis is inclined at an angle relative to the supporting surface that is between, but not including, 0° and 90° .

29. (New) The steering device of claim 28, wherein said swinging axis extends approximately in correspondence with or above said support axis of one of said two supporting and sliding or rolling elements that is closest to a middle portion of said chassis.

30. (New) The steering device of claim 22, wherein said at least one carriage comprises a first carriage and a second carriage at respective end portions of said chassis, each of said first carriage and said second carriage supporting a pair of said supporting and sliding or rolling elements.

31. (New) The steering device of claim 30, wherein said first carriage and said second carriage are arranged so as to symmetrically oppose each other.

32. (New) The steering device of claim 30, wherein said supporting and sliding or rolling elements comprise at least four wheels.

33. (New) The steering device of claim 32, wherein said wheels include wheels of different sizes.

34. (New) The steering device of claim 30, wherein lines connecting said support axes of said supporting and sliding or rolling elements are parallel to the supporting surface.

35. (New) The steering device of claim 33, wherein:
said wheels include at least two front wheels that are located at a front portion of said chassis at least two rear wheels that are located at a rear portion of said chassis;
said at least two front wheels have a smaller diameter than said at least two rear wheels; and
a line connecting said support axes of said at least two front wheels is located closer to the supporting surface than a line connecting said support axes of said at least two rear wheels.

36. (New) The steering device of claim 33, wherein a line connecting said support axes of said wheels is inclined with respect to the supporting surface.

37. (New) The steering device of claim 33, wherein:
a front wheel of said wheels, at a front of said chassis, and a third wheel of said wheels from the front of said chassis, are smaller in diameter than a second of said wheels from the front of said chassis and a rear wheel of said wheels; and
lines connecting said support axes of said front wheel and said second wheel, and said third wheel and said rear wheel, are inclined in the same direction with respect to the supporting surface.

38. (New) The steering device of claim 33, wherein:
said wheels include wheels that are located in a central portion of said chassis and front and rear wheels, said wheels located in the central portion being smaller in diameter than said front wheel and said rear wheel; and

a line connecting support axes of said front wheel and a forward-most one of said wheels that are located in the central portion being inclined oppositely to a line connecting support axes of said rear wheel and a rearward-most one of said wheels that are located in the central portion with respect to the supporting surface.

39. (New) The steering device of claim 33, wherein said swinging axis is at an angle of 90° with respect to the supporting surface.

40. (New) The steering device of claim 33, wherein said wheels include a front wheel, a rear wheel and wheels located at a central portion of said chassis, said front wheel and said rear wheel having a width in a direction along said supporting axes that is smaller than the width along said supporting axes of said wheels located at said central portion.

41. (New) A sports article comprising the steering device of claim 22.

42. (New) The sports article of claim 41, wherein said supporting and sliding or rolling elements are selected from the group consisting of wheels, ice blades and short skis.